Two rounds of official level consultations were held in September 1999 on counter-terrorism. The two sides have agreed to intensify cooperation in this area.

US Secretary of Energy, Mr. Bill Richardson, paid a visit to New Delhi on 26th October for talks on cooperation in the Energy sector.

National Security Adviser and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Shri Brajesh Mishra, visited Washington in October 1999, which was followed by the visit of Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, Ms. Susan Esserman, to India in November 1999, for talks on WTO issues, in the context of the forthcoming Ministerial level meeting in Seattle, USA.

Assistance to Pakistan for missile development programme

329. SHRI SITARAM KESARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the assistance being extended by some countries to Pakistan for development of their missile programme;

(b) if so, which are the countries giving help to Pakistan in the matter; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) the Government is aware of the acquisition of missiles and related technology by Pakistan, including from China and the Democratic People Republic of Korea (DPRK).

(c) The Government has made it clear, including to China and DPRK, that continuing supply of sophisticated missiles and related technology to Pakistan poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to maintenance of peace and stability in the region. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

Effectiveness of Extradition Treaty between India and U.A.E.

330. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Extradition Treaty between India and U.A.E. was an executive act;

(b) whether it would be effective in respect to citizens right without any legislation under Article 253 of our Constitution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.